



President's Notes, May 2011

Greetings and welcome to the May, 2011 edition of the FARL Bolt. The club held its annual elections last month, and we are happy to announce the officers for the 2011-2012 year:

President: David Treharne, N8HKU
Vice President: Roger Reini, KD8CSE
Treasurer: Pat Quinn, WD8JDZ
Recording Secretary: John Turowski, N8NWA
Activities Manager: Bill Boyke, N8OZV

The President and Vice President changed roles this year, a mirror from a few years ago when they originally swapped positions. Pat, who took over from Bill Brezina this spring, continues this year as Treasurer. John, who happened to miss the April meeting, had no one offering to contest his position, so he was acclaimed to remain in his post. We welcome back Bill Boyke N8OZV to Activities Manager, a position he vacated a few years ago. Bill has had many posts in the club over the years.

Have you been on the bands lately? The sunspot cycle is now kicking into gear. After several years of very low or non existent, sunspot numbers, we are firmly into the next sunspot cycle. 10 meters is now opening up regularly, along with 15 meters. 20 meters is staying open to Europe well after sundown, which makes contacts a lot easier to make. This is especially good news to those who have to use small or stealth antenna set ups at their residence. The antenna size needed to make communications is so much smaller on the higher frequencies. During the last sunspot maximum, my 30ft trap dipole in the attic of my condo worked around the world. Ham sticks, Buddie poles, and mini G5RV wire antennas will soon be able to make regular contacts on the bands. With all of the audio card generated digital modes now available, communication is possible at very low wattage as well. From that same attic mounted antenna, I had a nice PSK conversation with Israel at 25W back in 1998. Given all of the new hams that have been licensed over the past 5 years, this will be the first time they will experience the potential of HF communication on a wide basis. Think about how you might get on the air in the upcoming years if not already HF "radio active!" We can discuss more at upcoming club meetings.

Michigan QSO Party: Last month was the Michigan QSO party. I managed to get on the air in the late afternoon and evening for the event. To my surprise, I was the first Washtenaw contact for more than a few operators. Surprising, because the Ypsilanti Mad River Radio Club up the road from me sponsors the Party, and we also have active Ann Arbor and Chelsea clubs in the county. I was very happy to get on the air and collect some contacts as a "rare" county. When trying to work fellow Michiganders, 80 meters is the best band to use, as the sunspot level was

causing higher frequencies to skip out of state, even in the evening. There was some stormy weather throughout the Midwest, though, and the noise level on 80m was an astounding S9 +10db. I needed to crank the RF receiver gain way back in order to keep my ears from exploding due to the noise. I am sure that kept a lot of stations out of the log that evening, but communications were possible even at that level. As the evening went on, I started hearing the Ontario QSO party as well, which was happening the same night. The Ontario operators were trying to run at a lower frequency than we were, as it was very good to be able to tell which contest or party you were working, since both had unique serial numbers to exchange. Worth the effort all in all to sneak down into the shack and send out some RF!

73,
Dave, N8HKU



Ford Amateur Radio League (AKA: The Tin Lizzy Club) **Club Meeting Minutes – April 14, 2011**

Minutes, FARL Club Meeting - April 14th 2011

Club meeting called to order by President Roger, KD8CSE at 6:36pm on April 14th, 2011

Members in Attendance:

Roger, KD8CSE
Dave, N8HKU
Bill, N8OZV
Rusty, N8RGI
Rich, K8RMM
John, N3JM
Pat, WD8JDZ
No guests tonight

Meeting minutes from the March club meeting: Motion, N8RGI, 2nd: Rich K8RMM. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Given by Pat, WD8JDZ. Two checks from FERA received. Dave, N8HKU will deposit into the account.

Repeater: 220 machine is up, but working with audio distortion, probably being overdriven. The crystal change did not get performed, as the wrong crystal was built. Murray is out for the next 3 weeks, so no work will be done in the meanwhile. Contact Dave N8HKU if the distortion appears to be causing interference problems.

Education/Training: Tech/General licensing going well. Exam at 11am on Thursday, May 12th. It is ARRL listed. Yacht club: Bill, N8OZV expects to do a training and exam session together.

Communications: Newsletter going out. Website: being updated.

Club application: It is showing \$15, not \$20 Dave, N8HKU to fix both the site and the application.

Historian: No report tonight.

Annual Reports:

Club Event Summary:

CLUB EVENTS SUMMARY, APRIL 2010 TO APRIL 2011

Prepared by Roger Reini, KD8CSE, President

Regular Meetings

The FARL met regularly during the April 2010 to April 2011 period. No meetings were held during July and August, as is the normal custom, and the December meeting was replaced with the annual Christmas dinner at Mallie's Bar and Grille in Southgate.

Major Events

The FARL participated in two major events during the period between April 2010 and April 2011. One was the regular Field Day event, in conjunction with the Livonia Amateur Radio Club; the other was a new event, Maker Faire Detroit. For Field Day, the FARL/LARC team set up at its usual location at the Livonia Fire Station on Plymouth Road and had another successful operation, marred somewhat by the damage to the fire department's trailer from a windstorm, where there was confusion about whose responsibility it was to secure the trailer. The Maker Faire event took place the last weekend in July. We had a tent out in the main yard as well as a classroom inside for use by the training and testing sessions.

Community Outreach

The main community outreach project not already addressed under Major Events was the Speaking with Santa event at Mott Children's Hospital in December. After a one-year hiatus forced by the H1N1 flu epidemic, a team of five hams went to the hospital and set up two stations. This allowed all of the children who wanted to speak to Santa Claus the ability to do so. The number of participants from the club was down this year due to various conflicts, but this was not a reflection of the desire to support this annual event.

Education and Training

The club sponsored several amateur radio classes and testing sessions during the last year. There were the classes and testing sessions held throughout the year at Ford's Building 2 Atrium; there were the

classes and testing session held through the Ford Yacht Club in the spring; and there were the classes and testing sessions held during the Maker Faire in July.

Club equipment:

Club equipment was reviewed. Some equipment updates are needed. Dave, N8HKU, to work with club members to update the items. Motion made to retire the club portable cassette recorder and Power distribution cables. Motion carried

Annual Treasurer's report: Pat: Information missing. Pat will continue. More next month.

Update of Club Constitution and Bylaws: Need a clean copy of Bylaws posted to club site. Roger will send to Dave.

Nominating Committee report: None issued.

Election of Officers:

Quorum determination: ½ of average of last 3 meetings=5. 7 in attendance this evening. Quorum established.

Nominations for President: David Treharne, N8HKU Vice President, Roger Reini, KD8CSE. Treasurer: Pat Quinn, WD8JDZ. Secretary: No nominations, John, N8NWA to remain in position. Activities Chair: Bill, N8OZV.

A motion for acclimation of all nominees to be elected. No objections. Officers elected and welcomed to their positions.

Break taken at 7:25pm.

New Business:

No one heard the ISS transmissions on April 12th and 13th. AMSAT noted no reception heard on ground stations. Updates forthcoming.

Maker Faire preparations: Bill, N8OZV. We are approved to participate. No spacing has been identified. Bill wants 2 locations. One inside, one outside. Discussion about locations and what to do. Echolink, fox hunt, digital modes, fox hunt, kit building or qrp discussed. Bill looking for volunteers to talk to the other amateur radio clubs to own a piece of the presentation. Bill will contact various clubs, including the GM Club: Ku8V, Kirt, is President. John will contact the Motor City Club. Volunteers working 4 hours or more get admission. Bill, N8OZV will coordinate the Amateur radio position.

Estate of Joe Meyer: Steve Meyer is working with Bill Boyke. Bill will organize to sell off the equipment.

Milford swap: We have a table out. Swap is this Saturday.

Motion to adjourn. 8:14pm.

David Treharne, N8HKU



Field Day 2011 - David Treharne, N8HKU

Topic for the May club meeting, Preparations for Field Day, June 25th and 26th, 2011

It is time to discuss participation in this year's Field Day exercises. The LARC group is ready to run the site with us. We do need to get ourselves organized around the operation, and get some people lined up to help. Here are some ideas that the LARC has as an opening for discussion:

Suggest a slightly different layout of tents with the Fire Station tent (hope we will still be able to get it) in the center and put the welcome center and a station in there. Move the food tent over along the tree line.

Have "tent captains" and those people will be responsible for all details in their respective tents. Are you guys in Lizzy Club up for taking on the primary phone tent?

A few members of the club have suggested the idea of not having a GOTO station but setting up for a 4A operation. We have a couple guys who are enthusiastic about setting up a digi station (mostly RTTY) and there was an interest of setting up a second phone station. I seriously doubt if we will be able to keep these 2 operations manned for the full 24 hours, but there is an interest there. Anyway, the second phone station would be in the welcome tent and the digi tent will be set out back in the field away from all the other stations. The CW and primary phone stations would remain in their typical positions. If there are any ideas that you all believe would be better, please share them.

Also, I believe you took care of arranging for the logging computers, networking, and setting up the logging program. Will you (FARL) still be able to handle that chore?

I will bring up a proposal for the club to purchase a wire antenna this year, like a G5RV or a long dipole. The one we have been using for our SSB station was loaned to us by Bill, WA8HEA, who has gone and used it for a new purpose at his QTH. We still have the R7, but having a larger antenna capable of 80m and possibly 160m is better suited to our needs.



Field Day T-Shirts

The LARC is taking an order for Field Day T-Shirts in S-XXL size, color yellow. They have been popular the last couple of years. The cost is about \$10 each. Email Dave at N8HKU@ARRL.net with order information. LARC did not give a time deadline, but indicate no later than the end of the month.

The Maker Faire logo consists of the words "Maker Faire" in a bold, red, sans-serif font, enclosed in a blue rectangular border with rounded corners. A small registered trademark symbol (®) is located to the upper right of the word "Faire".

Maker Faire®

Maker Faire Detroit

The Henry Ford Museum, July 30 & 31, 2011

Maker Faire is an event created by the Make Magazine to "celebrate arts, crafts, engineering, science projects and the Do-It-Yourself (DIY) mindset." **and this year, our club will be participating in Amateur Radio for it in a big way.** This event will feature 300+ makers exhibiting demonstrations and hands-on workshops in areas such as Electronics, Rockets, Robotics, Food and Fashion finds. This is the most happening two day interactive and family-friendly event in Detroit featuring next level DIY projects in arts, crafts, engineering, food, music, science & technology.

<http://makerfaire.com/>

<http://www.thehenryford.org/events/makerFaire.aspx>



2011 Club Dues Reminder

Please remember to pay your 2011 club dues to Pat Quinn (WD8JDZ) by the May meeting. You can either pay him at the club meeting, or you can send a check to FARL, PO Box 2711, Dearborn, MI, 48123. The dues are still \$15 to renew for the next year (April 2011 to April 2012). Pat will give you a new membership card as your receipt for the dues. You can also order a club name tag for \$5 if you need to replace one or simply want another one. New member dues are \$20 which includes the price of the name tag.



Club Repeater Information

The Ford Amateur Radio League operates 3 club repeaters under the club K8UTT license. All the repeaters are located in the Dearborn, MI area near the Southfield Freeway. All repeaters are open for members and guests to operate.

Repeater	Output Freq	Input Freq	Tone
2 M Repeater	145.270	-600 KHz	100 Hz PL
1 1/4 M Repeater	224.520	-1.6 MHz	100 Hz PL
70 cm Repeater	443.425	+5 MHz	107.2 PL

Club Net: 8pm on Sunday, 2 and 1-1/4 Meter Repeaters!



Classes and Exams

The following amateur radio clubs conduct license exams throughout the year. Many clubs allow walk-ins but pre-registration will insure an exam is available for you when you attend.

Club Name	Contact Person	Phone	Email
Ford Amateur Radio League	Bill Boyke	313-805-8877	wboyke@ford.com
South Lyon ARC	Christian Anderson	248-437-3088	K8VJ@arr.net
Motor City ARC	Don Novak	734-281-7030	K8THU@arrl.net
Hazel Park ARC	Dee Flint	248-981-8145	N8UZE@arrl.net
USECA ARC	Joseph Kennedy	586-977-7222	N8OZ@arrl.net
ARROW Assn	Roger Place	734-663-4625	merrogplace@aol.com

Some of the above clubs also conduct license classes. Please contact them for additional information.

Club License Event!

The FARL is conducting an Amateur Radio License test session on Thursday, May 12th, at 11am.

Location:
Ford Motor Company,
20000, Rotunda Dr, Bld-1 Cafe 1GG099,
Dearborn MI 48124-5029

Contact Bill Boyke, N8OZV, at 313-805-8877 for any details. This location is open to the public. We have had several people studying for the Technician and General exams, and this is their opportunity to take an exam.



2010-2011 Club Officers

Please contact any of the officers for information regarding the Ford Amateur Radio League, or go to the club website at www.k8utt.org for current events and activities.

President	Dave Treharne	N8HKU	734-476-1666
Vice President	Roger Reini	KD8CSE	734-728-1509
Treasurer	Pat Quinn	WD8JDZ	734-729-1993
Secretary	John Turowski	N8NWA	313-258-1996
Repeater Chair	Murray Scott	KE8UM	248-743-1704
K8UTT Trustee	Dave Treharne	N8HKU	734-476-1666
Activity Chair	Bill Boyke	N80ZV	313-805-8877
Bolt Editor	Rajiv Paul	KD8LHF	313-244-2515



Club Meetings

The Ford Amateur Radio Club meets on the second Thursday of each month, except for Christmas and the summer months July and August. The meetings are held at 6:30 PM at the Ford Engine Manufacturing & Development Offices (EMDO) building. EMDO (located at 17000 Southfield Rd, Allen Park, MI) is south of I-94 on the east side of Southfield just north of the Allen Park Municipal offices. Park in the front of the building and come into the main lobby at the side. Knock on the inside door on the right if no one is standing there to let you in.



Next Club Meeting: May 12, 2011 at 6:30PM

Topic: Preparations for Field Day, June 25th and 26th, 2011

**The Ford Amateur Radio League
PO Box 2711
Dearborn, MI 48123**